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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2003

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Report Highlights:

Exports prices remained unchanged.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1], TH

Indicative Price (Week Ending Apr 29):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	475	450	499	477	475	460	480	474	472
WR 100 B	199	203	202	201	200	199	198	200	200
PB 5%	183	195	193	191	185	194	188	190	190
WR 5%	194	198	198	195	194	194	193	195	195
WR 10%	189	193	195	190	190	191	188	191	191
WR 15%	184	188	192	183	185	188	183	186	187
WR 25%	180	181	187	176	179	171	178	179	179
WR 35%	175	176	185	173	175	168	173	175	175
A 1 SUP	141	146	143	143	140	141	140	142	143
A 1 SPEC	139	144	142	141	139	NQ	139	141	142
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice remained unchanged. Trade sources reported that markets for Thai parboiled rice in Nigeria should be on track soon after the arrival of some imports this month. Nigeria is the largest importer of Thai parboiled rice, amounting to 967,380 metric tons (about 60 percent of Thailand's total parboiled rice exports) in CY 2002. Regarding the current Iraqi market, several Thai exporters are reported to sell their rice to Iraqi via the United Nations program. This is a change, as previously, since the first Gulf war, Thai private rice exports to Iraq were done by a sole exporter. In CY2002, Thailand's rice exports to Iraq totaled 230,260 metric tons, most of which were 100% grade white rice.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
MAR 23	77,084	72,255	905	1,666
MAR 30	74,718	67,842	979	1,785
APR 6	98,474	80,639	1,078	1,874
APR 13	70,447	80,181	1,148	1,957
APR 20	43,896	71,884	1,192	2,053
APR 27	124,576	84,348	1,317	2,194

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002 do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports for Apr 21-27, 2003, totaled 124,576 tons, up 80,680 tons from the previous week's total and up 40,228 tons from the four week moving average of 84,348 tons. The sharp increase resulted from the outstanding shipment after the long holiday of Thai New Year festival. Exports during Jan 1- Apr 27, 2003, totaled 1,317 thousand tons, compared with 2,194 thousand tons (including fragrant rice) during the same period in 2002.

According to the Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan1 - Apr 21, 2003 amounted to 1,883,063 tons, down 8.4 percent from 2,055,533 tons during the same period in 2002.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Apr 7-11, Apr 14-18, and Apr 21-25, 2003 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Apr 7-11	Apr 14-18	Apr 21-25
weekly sales	109,347	49,769	146,000
4 week sum	373,778	358,502	446,603
4 week mov avg.	93,445	89,626	111,651
Total weekly sales	1,310,485	1,360,254	1,506,254